

**Amendments to the Specification:**

*Please amend the paragraph (section) beginning on page 4, at line 10 as shown below:*

Figure 1 is a top view of a tape guide mechanism in a storage device including an optimized roller guide tape path in accordance with the present invention; and

Figure 2 is a top view of the tape guide mechanism of Figure 1 depicted using a two-axis coordinate system in accordance with the present invention;

Figure 3 is a top view of a tape guide mechanism including an optimized roller guide tape path in accordance with the present invention; and

Figure 4 is a partial schematic view of a tape guide mechanism in accordance with the present invention.

*Please amend the paragraph (section) beginning on page 5, at line 7 as shown below:*

Figure 1 is a top view of a tape guide mechanism 100 in a storage device 90 including an optimized roller guide tape path in accordance with the present invention.

*Please amend the paragraph (section) beginning on page 5, at line 15 as shown below:*

Referring to ~~the figures~~ Figures 1 and 2, the tape guide mechanism 100 includes a cartridge reel 102 for supplying tape to a drive reel 104.

*Please amend the paragraph (section) beginning on page 5, at line 30 as shown below:*

Alternatively, a single read/write head 109 may be used that is disposed along the axis 200 (see ~~Figure 2~~ Figure 3).

*Please amend the paragraph (section) beginning on page 6, at line 23 as shown below:*

The majority of the tape path, from points B to G, is symmetrically disposed about a longitudinal axis 200 forming a generally U-shaped path. The longitudinal axis 200 generally bisects the cartridge reel 102.

*Please amend the paragraph (section) beginning on page 7, at line 10 as shown below:*

Rollers 116 and 118 and read/write head 110 are located in a first portion of tape mechanism 100 in positions that correspond to the positions of rollers 112 and 114 and read/write head 108 in the second portion of tape mechanism 100. The pair of rollers 116 and 118 may be adjacent, as illustrated. The pair of rollers 112 and 114 may also be adjacent, as illustrated.

*Please amend the paragraph (section) beginning on page 7, at line 10 as shown below:*

[[Tape]]The tape mechanism 100 will typically be housed within a housing (not shown) in a storage device 90, as illustrated in Figure 1.

*Please insert the following paragraphs (sections) beginning on page 8, before line 4 as shown below:*

As illustrated in Figure 3, a single read/write head 109 may be disposed along the axis 200 in accordance with the present invention.

*Please amend the paragraph (section) beginning on page 8, at line 4 as shown below:*

As illustrated in Figure 4, any ~~Any known flanged, preferably grooved,~~ roller that is capable of spinning may be used to implement roller 112 ~~rollers 112, 114, 116, and 118.~~ Preferably, the roller 112 has grooves 113. The roller 112 illustrated may also be used to implement rollers 114, 116 and 118. Any known non-flanged, guide may be used to implement guide 120. Although a smooth, non-spinning guide, is preferred, a spinning guide may also be used.